

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 14912 140829Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/060 W

----- 099924

R 140730Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9933

INFO AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT, US

SUBJ: US ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS

1. LATEST CONTRIBUTION TO EFFORTS OF THE LEFTISH ORIENTED PRESS IN ITALY TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION OF A CHANGING ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) IN AMERICA CIRCLES IS AN ARTICLE IN LA REPUBBLICA OF SEPTEMBER 11 ENTITLED "WE ARE PERSUADED BY SEGRE". UTILIZING A HODGE-PODGE OF DOCUMENTS AND STATEMENTS THE ARTICLE FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON CHANGING ATTITUDES WITHIN THE CONGRESS WHERE, IT IS IMPLIED, AN INCREASED NUMBER OF MEMBERS ARE IN DISACCORD WITH THE CURRENT US POSITION TOWARDS THE PCI.

2. SPECIFIC MENTION IS GIVEN IN THE ARTICLE TO REPORTS AND STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES RYAN AND SOLARZ WHO, LAST SPRING, WERE PART OF THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL GROUP TO MEET WITH A PCI OFFICIAL IN ROME. EXCERPTS ARE TAKEN FROM A REPORT ALLEGEDLY PREPARED BY RYAN FOLLOWING A 1975 VISIT TO ROME, AT WHICH TIME HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN DISCOURAGED FROM MEETING PCI OFFICIALS BY THE EMBASSY. ADDITIONALLY, RYAN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THAT "THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS ARE NOT THE DEVIL WHICH OUR SECRETARY OF STATE BELIEVES THEM TO BE, AND I THINK

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PAGE 02 ROME 14912 140829Z

THAT A FORM OF ACCORD COULD BE REACHED WITHOUT COMPROMISING

AMERICAN INTERESTS IN ITALY." RYAN IS ALSO ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID THAT "IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE COMPACTNESS AND THE DISCIPLINE OF WHICH THE PCI GIVES PROOF AS AN APPARATUS ARE SOME OF THEIR POSITIVE CHARACTERISTICS. EVERY PARTY WHICH WISHES REALLY TO COUNT AS A POLITICAL FORCE SHOULD BE THE SAME."

3. SOLARZ IS REPORTED TO BE ESSENTIALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH THE POSITION OF RYAN. ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH SEGRE, HE "SEES MINIMAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF THE PCI, AS SEGRE ILLUSTRATED THEM, AND THOSE OF OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES." HE ADDS THAT "IN THE CONGRESS THERE IS A WIDESPREAD (WORD MISSING) FOR PCI PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE POINT OF VIEW OF KISSINGER ENJOYS VERY LIMITED SUPPORT."

4. THE FINAL ITEM REFERRED TO IN THE "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTAGE IS A REPORT PREPARED PRIOR TO THE JUNE ELECTIONS BY THE "OFFICE OF STUDIES OF THE CONGRESS" ENTITLED "COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS: PROSPECTS AND IMPLICATIONS". ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, WHICH QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM THE STUDY, ITS ANALYSIS WAS EXTREMELY PENETRATING AND ITS PREDICTIONS, FOR THE MOST PART, WERE QUITE ACCURATE.

5. ASIDE FROM DISTURBING DRIFT OF ARTICLE, OTHER FEATURE WHICH MAKES IT PARTICULARLY DISAGREEABLE IS FACT THAT RYAN IN A WRITTEN REPORT TALKS OF 1975 CONVERSATIONS WITH MFA OFFICIALS JOSEPH NITTI AND DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS EUGENIO GAJA (SHOULD READ PLAJA) AS WELL AS WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICER COL. GIUSEPPE D'AMBROSIO. RYAN'S REPORT ALLEGEDLY QUOTES PRIVATE PREDICTIONS OF EACH OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON EVOLVING ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION. COMMENT: PLAYBACK IN ITALIAN PRESS OF PERSONAL VIEWS EXPRESSED IN CONFIDENCE DURING LUNCHEON HOSTED BY DCM CAN ONLY MAKE MORE DIFFICULT TASK OF ARRANGING FOR MEETINGS WITH ITALIAN OFFICIALS FOR FUTURE CODELS, AND THEREFORE THESE INDISCRETIONS, IF THEY OCCURRED AS REPORTED IN LA REPUBBLICA, ARE PARTICULARLY REGRETABLE FROM THE EMBASSY'S POINT OF VIEW. END COMMENT.BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANTICOMMUNIST, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME14912
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760346-0121
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760962/aaaacbbm.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS
TAGS: PINT, IT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006